

I am disappointed in the over-the-air and cable television service here in Colorado Springs. I can't receive clear signals via an antenna and the cable is neither crystal-clear nor reliable. I currently subscribe to both DISH and cable service -- I will *drop* my cable service in a heartbeat when 'spotbeam' provides my local channels. I have invested in an HDTV set and the local market is a long way from providing the clear digital pictures I can get from satellite *today*. Also, the local cable company has been advertising 'cable modems' for two years, but they have failed to roll out the infrastructure necessary to deliver it to me.

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will !
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